the direction of peace, friendship and cooperation, and should not be wasted in propaganda or scoring debating points. The Agra Summit was to have been a retreat, so as to enable the leaders of both the countries to meet, in privacy and confidentiality, and address complex and intricate issues pertaining to India–Pakistan relations. Government shall continue in their endeavour to build good neighbourly ties with Pakistan, through quiet and serious diplomacy.

There have been several informed assessments of the negative impact of the telecast, of what was initially projected as an off-the- record breakfast meeting of President Pervez Musharraf with senior Indian editors, on the conduct and the outcome of the Summit.

Meeting of Foreign Secretaries of SAARC

4179. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meeting of the Foreign Secretaries of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation scheduled to be held on the 8th June, 2001 was postponed;

(b) whether any fresh date for the meeting has been fixed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The meeting took place on August 9-10, 2001 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Meeting of Bay of Bengal group of countries

4180. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meeting of the Bay of Bengal group of countries on transport and communication was held in New Delhi in the month of April, 2001;

(b) if so, the names of the countries that participated in the meeting; and

(c) the outcome of the meeting ?